in place a massive market access programme together with a strategy to enhance the country's export capabilities and competitiveness; and

(c) if so what steps have been taken in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Market access issues have acquired great importance in the world economy today. The Government is continually working towards facilitating easier market access for Indian products abroad, including for removal of various non-tariff barriers. The Government is also bringing about trade policy reforms aimed at creating a conducive environment for achieving rapid increase in exports, raising India's share in world exports and making exports an engine for achieving higher economic growth. The EXIM policy statement for this year clearly indicates the initiatives in this regard which include setting up of Speical Economic Zones, more intensive participation of State Governments in export efforts, steps to simplify and rationalize procedures etc., apart from improving and rationalizing existing export promotional schemes.

FDI in Telecom, Coffee and Tea Plantation

21. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering 100 percent Foeign Direct Investment in Telecom, Coffee and Tea Plantation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is an envolving policy in response to arising situations. The need to change the policy is discussed from time to time.

In basic, Celluar Mobile, paging and Value Added service, Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite and Inernet Service Provider (ISP), FDI is limited to 49% subject to grant of licence from the Deptt. of Telecommunications.

At present Foreign direct investment in Coffee and Tea Plantation is not permitted.